

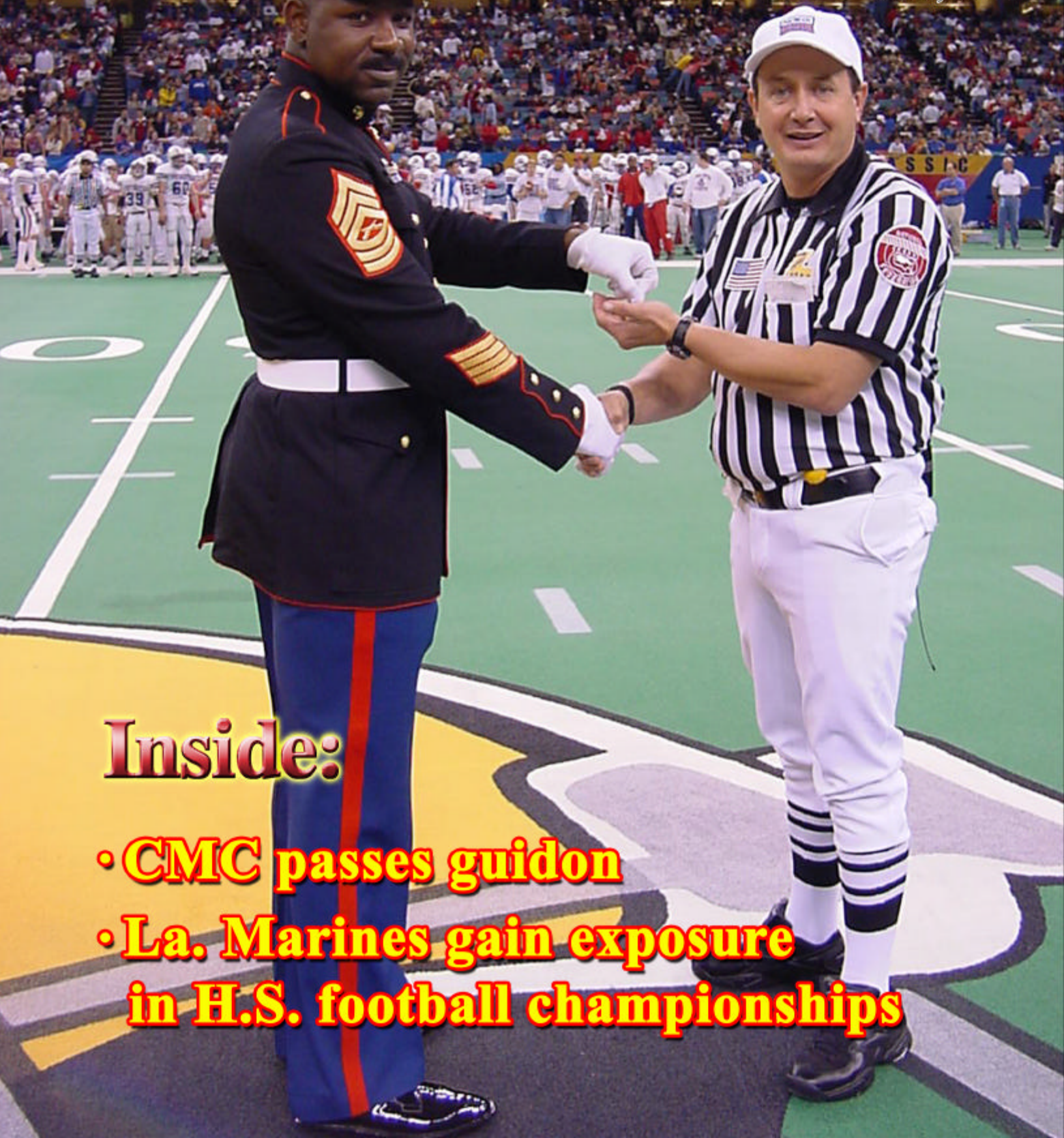
# THE PACESSETTER

6th Marine Corps District, Parris Island, S.C.



January 2003

Vol. 2, No. 1



## Inside:

- **CMC passes guidon**
- **La. Marines gain exposure in H.S. football championships**



# THE PACESETTER

January 2003  
Vol. 2, No. 1

Commanding Officer.....Col. T. E. Gregory  
Executive Officer.....Maj. J. P. Stump, III  
Sergeant Major..... SgtMaj. J. D. Moses

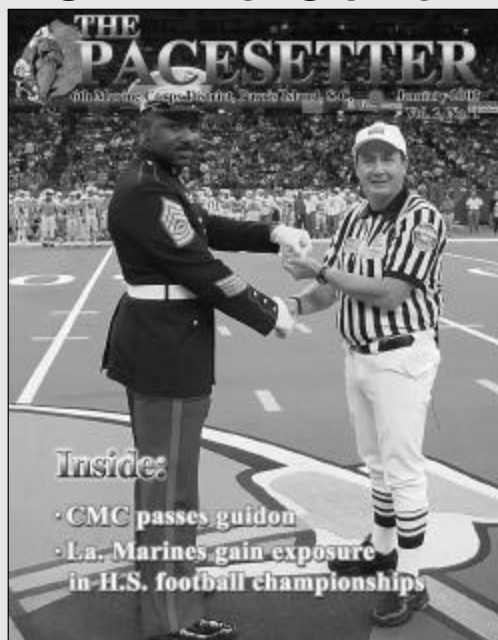
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## On The Cover



Master Sgt. Kenneth Johnson, RSS Westbank NCOIC, presents the referee with a "Marine Corps Superior Excellence" coin to use as the official token for the pregame coin tosses during the Louisiana state high school football championships.

Cover photo by SSgt. Jeff Middleton

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If you have a comment or a story idea for *The Pacesetter*, please contact us. If you would like to submit a story about recruiting, professional wisdom, military families or any other topic, please send us the story and related pictures.

For email submissions, send to:  
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# CO requires safety

Marines,

One of the greatest challenges that Marine leaders face is ensuring the safety of their Marines. Whether you lead 1 or 100, keeping your Marines safe is the first step in keeping them combat ready. Safety leadership is particularly important for Marines on recruiting duty. Preventable accidents have claimed more Marine lives over the past three decades than any enemy action. If an enemy on the battlefield was inflicting the rate of casualties on us that alcohol abuse and unsafe driving are, we would employ every fire support means available to destroy that enemy force. To reduce needless loss to accidents we must employ every leadership means available.

Every Marine assigned the recruiting mission automatically assumes greater safety risks than his counterparts in the fleet. The long hours, high tempo, and extensive road time all conspire to make our jobs very dangerous. On recruiting duty, we are not only responsible for our own safety, but also for the safety of our team members. If you see a fellow Marine about to do something stupid, STOP HIM. This is a leadership requirement.

Every Marine assigned the recruiting mission has the great responsibility of beginning our newest Marines' safety education. Along with the basics required to prepare them for success at MCRD, we should stress safety to our poolees. We should teach them the rudiments of Operational Risk Management (ORM). They should know how to assess the risk of any activity and how to implement controls to mitigate the risks. This is a leadership requirement.

All Marines in the Sixth Marine Corps District are required to exercise ORM. ORM is not rocket science—it is a relatively simple method that must be applied to every activity in which we participate, on or off duty. For example: before you climb into your POV each morning to drive to the office, you should do a quick risk assessment. What are the road conditions? What is the visibility? What are the traffic conditions? Am I rested? Is my mind pre-occupied with other things besides driving? All of these questions have quick answers that help you determine the level of risk for your commute. Once you determine the risks, then you can determine what you will do to reduce the risks. Most of the time the greatest risk mitigator is to SLOW DOWN. But, it could also be to take an alternate route or tell yourself to focus on the road. All of this can take less than a minute. One minute to prevent a lifetime of heartache or loss of life.

Marine leaders are renown for taking care of their people. Be the best leader possible and look out for the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, and your people.

Safety is a leadership requirement.

Semper Fidelis,

THOMAS E. GREGORY  
COLONEL OF MARINES



# Leno laughs it up with Marines

SSgt. Sergio Jimenez

*Los Angeles Public Affairs Office*

Jay Leno honored the Marines and other members of the Armed Forces during The Tonight Show's Salute to the Armed Forces Thanksgiving Special, Nov. 27.

Fifty five Marines from Camp Pendleton, Barstow, Miramar and Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego were part of the studio audience along with approximately 300 other service-members stationed in Southern California and as far away as Alaska.

The Marines were entertained by Leno, The Tonight Show Band, comedians Rob Schneider and Steve Marmel and a host of unique and often quirky cast of talented servicemembers.

Leno and the producers of the show sifted through dozens of submissions from each of the services to come up with the night's talent line up.

Marine PFC Amy Collingwood entertained the audience with her unique ability to hear a sentence and repeat it backward. During the show, Leno dictated a few sentences to Collingwood and had producers display the text on the screen for the viewers to read along. Collingwood immediately repeated Leno's words in what seemed like a foreign language or like the sound on a tape recording played backward.

"She was extremely entertaining, was relaxed and did an outstanding job representing the Marine Corps," said LCpl. David B. Bailey, combat correspondent, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, of Collingwood's performance. "She showed the American people that Marines are not just tough grunts, she showed that we also have brains in our operation as well."

"I started speaking backward as a little kid. I learned to read, and I just played with the words in my head," said Collingwood.

Leno tested her talent by saying phrases such as, "Kevin Eubanks has a shiny bald head."

Within seconds Collingwood replied, "Deah dlab ynihs a



Photo by U.S. Air Force MSgt. Bill Kimble

Marine PFC Amy Collingwood jokes with Jay Leno during the taping of the Thanksgiving salute to the Armed Forces. Collingwood entertained the audience with her unique ability to hear a sentence and repeat it backward.

sah sknabuE niveK."

Collingwood, like the nine other Marines who auditioned for a spot in the talent show, submitted a videotape of her unique abilities to the Leno crew.

"When I heard that I had been picked, I was so excited; not just to be on national television, but also to represent the Marine Corps in front of the whole country," said Collingwood.

"I'm so proud of her. She was given an opportunity to show the country that a normal girl can be a Marine, and still have fun and be silly sometimes. It's just an awesome opportunity to familiarize people with their military," said Binky Collingwood, Collingwood's mother.

According to Collingwood, her relaxed appearance belied the nervousness she was feeling in the pit of her stomach just prior to going on stage.

"It wasn't just me I was representing with my performance," said Collingwood. "I was representing the Marine Corps."

Collingwood recently graduated recruit training at Parris Island, S.C., and is scheduled to utilize her skill with words for the benefit of the Marine Corps. She will be attending the Defense Language Institute in Monterrey, Calif. next summer.



Photo by U.S. Air Force MSgt. Bill Kimble

Jay Leno, host of The Tonight Show poses with performers from all branches of the Armed Forces at NBC Television Studios in Burbank, Calif., during the taping of show's Thanksgiving salute to the Armed Forces.

**See Collingwood, Page 12**

# Commandant passes torch; moves on to SACEUR role

**SSgt. Kevin Dolloson**

## *Headquarters Marine Corps*

Amid preparations for war, Gen. James L. Jones heads for Europe Jan. 14 to assume duties as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Gen. Jones relinquished his duties as the Corps' top Marine a day prior to Gen. Michael W. Hagee, formerly the commander of I Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

As each general packs up one office and prepares to move to another, they are faced with the reality of war and the role they play in it. General Jones' last big "hoorah" was the stop loss/stop move policy, which states that no Marine will separate from the Marine Corps for one year, and no Marine will change duty stations for one year. That year began Jan. 7, 2003 and is in effect until Jan. 8, 2004.

"We have to be ready to do what the nation asks," said Gen. Jones. "There is no room for not being successful."

General Jones said the stop loss/stop move policy was put into effect with the expectation that over the next few weeks, or months, we'll clearly know which way we're headed.

"It's a prudent hedge against what we see as a serious evolving situation," said Gen. Jones. "And we want to make sure the Marine Corps is able to execute the totality of its potential missions should, in fact, the crisis with regard to Iraq deepen, and we go on to offensive action."

General Jones also expressed that he doesn't see as a long-term policy, but a short-term policy "that we need as (insurance) for whatever it is we might be asked to do."

General Jones now steers his focus toward his duties as SACEUR, which concentrates primarily on preserving the peace, security and territorial integrity of Alliance member states.

As SACEUR, Gen. Jones will play an important public role and be the senior military spokesman for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. General Jones will be responsible for conducting military planning that will include the identification of forces required for the full range of Alliance missions, according to the NATO Handbook.

General Michael W. Hagee assumed command as 33rd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps Jan. 13 in a ceremony attended by thousands on the tradition-rich grounds of the United States Naval Academy.

Hailing from Texas, Gen. Hagee, one of six children of a Navy chief petty officer, and a 1968 graduate of the academy, promised to continue the legacy passed to him through generations of those privileged to bear the title of Commandant.

He wasted no time in articulating his planning guidance—a map of where the Corps is headed and his directions for getting there—to a gathering of general officers at a symposium held in Arlington Jan. 13-17.

In his planning guidance, Gen. Hagee highlights his belief that the Corps' move into the 21st century is on track to succeed with only minor rudder shifts required.

"I was a part of the 32nd CMC's decision-making team," he said. He and the other current leaders of the Corps were supportive of all the major decisions made by Gen. James L. Jones, now the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

The new Commandant envisions all decisions he and his general officers make being guided by two tenets—maximizing warfighting excellence and taking care of our Marines, he said. By aiming for those two objectives, CMC believes that all other decisions will fall in line.

One particular area CMC addressed



Photo by Sgt. Brandon P. O'Brien

Sergeant Maj. of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj. Alford McMichael, salutes as Gen. James L. Jones, 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, pass the Marine Corps colors to Gen. Michael W. Hagee, 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, symbolically handing the Corps into the new commandant's care. General Hagee assumed duties as the commandant during the ceremony Jan. 13 at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

was the continuation of Gen. Jones' practice of empowering the enlisted Marine.

General Jones focused on better-trained and better-educated staff noncommissioned officers.

A greater number of enlisted Marines with degrees and advanced training is grounds for continuing to decentralize command and place greater responsibility on this group of Marines, CMC said.

"Within the Marine Corps it's less and less about your rank, (and more) about your ability to do the job," Gen Hagee said.

"We need to continue to focus on both training and education—and there is a difference. Training focuses on techniques and procedures, education focuses on understanding."

The CMC's complete planning guidance can be viewed online at <http://www.usmc.mil/33cmcpdg.doc>.

Additional information from HQMC was used.

# Musician finder

## MTA hits the road to make his mission

**GySgt. Lesli Coakley**

*Public Affairs Chief  
6th MCD*

**H**e doesn't frolic through the parks of River City hand in hand with Shirley Jones to the tune of '76 Trombones' but, to the Marines of the 6th Marine Corps District, he is the Music Man.

The Music Man of 6 MCD, or Musician Technical Assistant, is better known as SSgt. Mitch O. Martin, a 37-year-old trumpet player and 15-year veteran of the Marine music program.

Spending approximately 150 days on the road each year, Martin is tasked with providing support in the acquisition of qualified musicians to fill the ranks of the Corps' 12 performing bands.

"My mission at 6th District is to ensure we meet the mission of auditioning and qualifying applicants to meet the Musician Enlistment Option Program mission, at least that's what it was when I started," he explained.

"I can aid with access to bands. I can guest conduct, perform clinics on effective practice methods, jazz improvisation, music theory. I can teach brass and trumpet. But, most importantly I generate awareness about the Marine Corps," he

explained in his soft-spoken voice.

"Bands are virtually an untapped market. These kids have less drug involvement, less police involvement. They understand discipline, dedication and commitment due to the time spent marching and practicing. It is a high alpha market."

Martin can touch hundreds of young men and women through music, but not all of them will continue to play beyond high school or even qualify for the Marine Corps music program. His time spent interacting with potential applicants also plants the seeds of the Marine Corps.

"I met a junior high music teacher at the Florida Music Educator's Conference in

January who was worried about his son. The son was off to college and not having a good time of it. The father gave me his son's phone number and I called him. I talked to this kid about the Marine Corps and got him to go see his local recruiter."

Unfortunately the potential Marine did not qualify at the time because of his weight. But, undeterred, Martin stayed in contact with the son and kept him focused on being a Marine. Four months later, the son lost his weight, passed his musical audition and enlisted in the Marine Corps. His musical talent was to such a scale, that he was allowed to bypass the School of Music and is now stationed in Hawaii.

"I still keep in touch with him. I talked to him when he was in (Marine Combat Training) and he was happy with his decision.

The decision to become a Marine wasn't foremost on Martin's mind when he was a young man attending college at the University of Maryland, although music has always been a force in his life.

"I had a neighbor who had a beautiful white piano. I had been playing trumpet for a while and I thought I would try

to learn the piano. The first song I ever learned was the Marines' Hymn."

Later, he would spend time with his grandmother who lived in Washington, D.C., down the street from the Kuwaiti Embassy, and was exposed to many of the premier military bands.

Martin spent his high school years as a trumpet player for his high school band. He later attended the University of Maryland to further his musical expertise. But, college proved to require more dedication than high school and his thoughts returned to his younger days and his time at Grandma's house. He wanted to join

the Marine Corps, but he also wanted to continue his musical education.

"I knew I needed direction, so I walked into the recruiter's

office and told him I wanted to be a Marine so I came into the Marine Corps as a musician."

That was in 1987. After basic training at Parris Island and military occupational specialty training at the School of Music, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., he was sent to Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va. less than an hour away from home.

Due to the non-deployment nature of Quantico, it did little to prepare him for his next assignment with the 1st Marine Division Band at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Arriving at Camp Pendleton in January 1990, he enjoyed the California sun for nine months before he traded that in for the sun of Southwest Asia.

"That is where my Marine Corps metamorphosis really took place. I got a better idea for what an (All Purpose, Lightweight, Individual, Carrying Equipment) pack was all about. I learned about deploying and living in the field."

"We had to come back early to play for all the homecoming ceremonies."

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**"...Most importantly I generate awareness about the Marine Corps."**

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- SSgt. Mitch O. Martin,  
Musician Technical Asst.



SSgt. Mitchell O. Martin

**See Martin, Page 12**



# Pre-game Parade

## Marines Bloom at Outback Bowl

Sgt. Jimmie Perkins

### Marine Corps Recruiting Command

The Marine Corps Recruiting Command took advantage of the popularity of college football bowl games by purchasing an advertising package to give the Marines visibility in the nationally televised Outback Bowl and festivities. The Marine Corps Recruiting Command had the opportunity to reach much of its target audience during the football game between the University of Florida and the University of Michigan.

"During the holiday season, much of our target market tunes in and follows the myriad of college football games," said Staff Sgt. Bruce Katz, marketing chief,

Marine Corps Recruiting Command. "We created awareness by exploiting opportunities in the Outback Bowl pre-game parade, opening ceremonies, and the television broadcast."

Some of the most visible presence of the Marine Corps started with the pre-game parade. Master Sgt. Kevin Odermatt, the operations chief for Recruiting Station Orlando and SSgt. David Pensante, supply chief for RS Orlando, rode the newest marketing vehicles, two MCRC Harley Davidson motorcycles, in the parade. They lead the MCRD Parris Island Band and the 6th MCD Hummer down 7th Avenue in Tampa.

"Riding the bikes down to the parade, people were hollering and waving out their car windows to us," said Pensante. "The custom bikes are able to draw in a crowd both young and old because they are original."

On New Year's Day, prior to the game, the Marine Corps participated in the Pre-Game Bowl Bash at the Raymond James Stadium. The motorcycles and Hummer were also on display in locations inside and outside the stadium. Marine Corps recruiters were on hand to provide answers to potential candidates. The inflatable obstacle course and Chin- Up Challenge provided interactive fun as well. Marine Corps T-shirts, carabiners, lanyards and baseball caps provided incentive for the attendees to participate. Leads were generated as a result of these efforts.

"We received a good response from the public," said Pensante. "Participating in events like this shows we are involved in things kids like, such as college football."

**"Participating in events like this shows we are involved in things kids like, such as college football."**

- SSgt. David Pensante,  
RS Orlando supply chief

Marines from RS Orlando provided the Marine Corps Color Guard for the opening ceremonies and a group of four AV8-B Harriers from Marine Attack Squadron 223 provided a flyover following the singing of the National Anthem. Major Gen. Christopher Cortez, Commanding General MCRC, officiated the coin toss to start the game.

Prior to kick off, MCRC hosted a center of influence event with 50 invited guests. The

COI event offered MCRC the opportunity to communicate its recruiting goals and messages to community leaders and those in a position to enhance recruiter efforts in local communities.

"Events of this size and magnitude have several benefits for recruiting," said Katz. "We create a positive impression among attendees of the event, increase awareness of the Marine Corps brand using broadcast media and generate leads for our recruiters. All of these contribute to our recruiting success."



Photo by SSgt. Bruce Katz

Master Sergeant Kevin Odermatt straps on his helmet as he prepares to lead the MCRD Parris Island Band and the 6th MCD Hummer down 7th Avenue in Tampa, Fla. during the Outback Bowl Parade Dec. 31, 2002. Odermatt rode one of the two MCRC Harley Davidson motorcycles in the parade. The motorcycles and Hummer were also displayed New Year's Day at the Raymond James Stadium during the football game between the University of Florida and the University of Michigan.



Photo by SSgt. Jeff Middleton

Marines from RS New Orleans and two Marine moms pose for a photo after a Blue Star Mother Presentation at halftime of the Class 4A Louisiana State Football Championships. From left is: MSgt. Kenneth Johnson, RSS Westbank NCOIC; SSgt. Schuyler Broussard, RSS Westbank recruiter; Mrs. Theresa Lewis LeBlanc; SSgt. Daniel Sanchez, RSS Westbank

recruiter; Mrs. Charmaine Isaac; and Maj. James Christmas, RS New Orleans Commanding Officer. Mrs. LeBlanc is the mother of Sgt. Cleveland LeBlanc III, a 1987 graduate of O.P. Walker High School and Mrs. Isaac is the mother of LCpl. Janron Isaac, a 2001 graduate of Port Sulphur High School.

# TOTAL EXPOSURE!

## *Louisiana recruiters gain statewide coverage*

**SSgt. Jeff Middleton**

*Marketing and Public Affairs Representative,  
RS New Orleans*

**F**or a Marine recruiter, the opportunity to walk on the 50-yard line before the start of a high school football game is great exposure. But when that school is in the state football championship being played at the New Orleans' Superdome in front of thousands of people, and the game is being televised, the opportunity is immeasurable.

That's what the Marines of Recruiting Station New Orleans were able to do after tailoring a sponsorship with a civilian marketing company that pairs organizations such as the Marine Corps with high school athletics.

"The relationship between the Marine Corps and high school athletics is a custom fit," said SgtMaj. Michael Watkins, RS New Orleans Sergeant Major. "Some of the same traits that make great athletes: perseverance, dedication, and discipline, make great Marines."

The Louisiana state high school football championships consisted of five games, 1A – 5A, where the top two teams in each bracket play for the championship crown. The rivalries and emotions of these high school games may be no less than those of the professional football players that normally play in the Superdome.

"These kids really do remember this occasion for the rest of their lives," said a Louisiana High School Athletic Association coordinator. "The look on the athletes' faces when they take the field at the state championships is amazement. They really are impressed when they run out on the field in front of their peers and parents."



**M**arines presented the referees with "Marine Corps Superior Excellence" coins to use as the official coins for the coin toss before each game. Then during halftime of each game, the Marines escorted a Mom of one of the



Photo by SSgt. Jeff Middleton

Marines from RS New Orleans escort two Marine Moms for a Blue Star Mother Presentation at halftime of the Class 4A Louisiana State Football Championships. Escorting Mrs. Theresa Lewis LeBlanc is SSgt. Schuyler Broussard and escorting Mrs. Charmaine Isaac is SSgt. Daniel Sanchez. Mrs. LeBlanc is the mother of Sergeant Cleveland LeBlanc III, a 1987 graduate of O.P. Walker High School. Mrs. Isaac is the mother of Lance Corporal Janron Isaac, a 2001 graduate of Port Sulphur High School. Following the Marine escorts and the Marine moms is MSgt. Kenneth Johnson, RSS Westbank NCOIC and Maj. James Christmas, RS New Orleans Commanding Officer.

playing teams on the field for a Blue Star Mother Presentation.

In addition to the pregame and halftime on-field presentations, Marines were posted in key areas on the field at all times for increased exposure.

These Marines became part of the coverage of countless television crews who were covering the games of their local teams from as far away as Northern Louisiana.

"This was some great exposure," said MSgt. Kenneth Johnson, RSS Westbank NCOIC.

"The opportunity to be on the field in front of basically the entire student body from two of our schools and their parents is tremendous," he said.

Cable company, COX Communication, recorded the games and reaired all of them in their entirety several times, to include the Marine Corps presentations, on their sports channel, COX Sports.

**A**ccording to everyone involved with the championship games, the Marines of RS New Orleans gained great exposure during the football championships. Plans are now underway for Marine Corps participation in the high school basketball championships in March.

***"The opportunity to be on the field in front of basically the entire student body from two of our schools and their parents is tremendous."***

- MSgt. Kenneth Johnson,  
NCOIC, RSS Westbank

## LSU salutes the military

SSgt. Jeff Middleton

*Marketing and Public Affairs Representative, New Orleans*

In front of 92,012 fans; the largest crowd this year and the second largest crowd in Tiger Stadium history, the United States Marine Corps, along with all other military branches, paid tribute to Blue Star Mothers at the LSU vs. Alabama game late this season.

The presentation was part of LSU's "Salute to the Military" and took place on the 50-yard line during halftime. There was a mother representing each service that has a son currently on active duty. The mothers were escorted by a representative from their son's branch of service and Maj. James D. Christmas,

commanding officer, Marine Corps Recruiting Station, New Orleans presented each one with a Blue Star Banner.

The Blue Star Mothers Program became widespread during World War II. This congressionally chartered organization is a Veteran Service Organization. Mothers who had sons or daughters serving in the military at that time, flew white banners with a blue star for each child currently serving.

The Marines in southwestern United States have launched a campaign to regenerate the Blue Star program and to thank mothers everywhere for their patriotism and commitment to the country by allowing their sons and daughters to enter the military. Marines are presenting banners to moms throughout this area and, at the LSU Salutes Game, invited the other services to join in.

One Blue Star Mother from Lafayette, La., described her sense of

commitment to the country when she received her Blue Star Banner from the Marines a short time ago during another presentation.

"As a mom, I was nervous when my sons told me they wanted to be a Marines," said Madeleine Winjum, a mother of two Marines currently on active duty. "There's a lot of things going on in the world, but freedom isn't free. It would be hypocritical of me to say to others 'fight that war' or 'protect this country' but not be willing to allow my own children to do the same.

Madeline is an example of the types of mothers who were and will continue to be honored through the Blue Star Mother Program.

The Blue Star Mother Presentation at the LSU Salutes home game honored Marine Mom Frances Hines. Hines is the mother of 2ndLt. Charlie Hines, who is an LSU graduate currently serving at the basic school in Quantico, Virginia.

# Mat mayhem

## Marines sponsor H.S. wrestling tourney

**SSgt. Will Price**

*Marketing and Public Affairs  
Representative, RS Jacksonville*

The Marines of Recruiting Station Jacksonville, Fla. welcomed more than 250 high school wrestlers to vie for the honor of winning the 2002 Marine Corps Backyard Bash wrestling tournament, held Dec. 6 and 7.

Sixteen high school teams made the trek to Jacksonville's Robert. E. Lee High School from as far south as Orlando and north to Brunswick, Ga., with one goal in mind - victory.

The wrestlers battled in 14 different weight classes, from 103 lbs. to the Heavy Weight division of 215 lbs. and over. Each combatant competed to win their individual weight class, which would ultimately decide who would take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for the team awards.

On Friday afternoon, after the mats were laid out, and the wrestlers completed their weigh-ins, an excited crowd of more than 500 friends and family members cheered and hollered for their school's colors.

The matches generally run for three two-minute rounds, with points awarded

for various takedown maneuvers and escapes, but ultimately every wrestler seeks to twist and turn his opponent's shoulder blades flat against the mat for a pin and an automatic victory.

The wrestlers battled late into the night Dec. 6 and woke up early the next morning to continue the attack.

Many left their matches with the thrill of victory, some the agony of defeat, some wiped tears away, while others wiped away blood, but by 5 p.m. on Dec. 7, each weight class was down to its final four competitors. The final battle scene was staged.

On one mat, the wrestlers vied for the 3rd and 4th place bronze medals, while simultaneously, the top two wrestlers fought for top honors, the gold medal, with the loser of this match taking home the silver medal.

After the matches were completed, wrestlers reported to the awards podium. While there, Sgt. Chad Miller and Staff Sgt. Glen Leckemby, recruiters for RS Jacksonville, presented the medals to the

top four athletes in each class, one-by-one. Parents, siblings and friends gathered around with a barrage of video cameras and still photo cameras to proudly capture the moment.

"The Marines presence went above and beyond this year," said Brian Gilbert, wrestling coach for Jacksonville's Robert E. Lee High School. "From the blow-up drill instructor, to the medals, everything went great. We can't thank the Marines enough."

Afterward, trophies were awarded to the coaches of the



Photo by SSgt. Will Price

*Wrestlers from 16 different high schools battled for top honors during the 3rd Annual Marine Corps Backyard Bash at Robert E. Lee High School in Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 6-7.*

three top teams. Taking first place was Ridgeview High School, in second place was University Christian and in third was Wilson High School all of Jacksonville.

The tournament's highest individual honor, the Most Outstanding Wrestler trophy, was presented to University Christian's Jeremy Mosley, 189 lbs. weight class, after he pinned Kevin Worsowick, last year's number three finisher in the state finals.

This year, Coach Gilbert and the Marines dedicated the accolade of MOW to the late Anthony Hilton, a former football player and wrestler for Lee High School, who tragically died of heat exhaustion during football practice in August.

"It was the least we could do. We only hope that after this year's Bash," Miller said, "Anthony's mother can walk away feeling like she has a family of Marines and wrestlers who care about her."

With the discipline and commitment to excellence all the wrestlers displayed during this year's Backyard Bash, the Marines of RS Jacksonville look forward to pinning many of these young warriors to the "Yellow Footprints" of Parris Island.



Photo by SSgt. Will Price

*Sergeant Chad Miller and Staff Sgt. Glen Leckemby, recruiters for Recruiting Station Jacksonville, presented medals to the top four wrestlers of each weight class during the 3rd Annual Marine Corps Backyard Bash.*

# NCOICs receive upgraded laptops

**Cpl. Stacey Bullock**

*Combat Correspondent*  
6MCD

Most say computers have become an integral part of modern day business. Those who rely on computers must keep them up to date to maintain efficiency.

Recruiting substation noncommissioned officers-in-charge depend on their computers to accomplish the mission of the day.

For this reason, 100 brand-new laptops were sent to 6th Marine Corps District to be set up to replenish their supply and to help them better operate in the "field."

Sergeant Eric Pratt, 6 MCD network administrator, spent long, tireless hours on the laptops, preparing them for deployment to their new owners.

"The laptops they had were old and required too much maintenance," he said.

"We set them up for dial-up, email, and internet," explained Pratt. "The new ones also have DVD players. They can now show (public service announcements) formatted on DVD to prospective applicants."

The laptops were somewhat configured when they got here, but needed district specific enhancements.

"We also had to do the initial set up to include user profiles, computer names and install anti-virus software," said Pratt.

The NCOICs have had the new machines for six months, and are very happy with them, said GySgt. Price Martin, 6MCD information systems management branch chief.

"They like the portability, the option to have any information on hand at all times," he said.

"I can take it with me to interviews and conduct the initial test," said SSgt. Derrek Steele, NCOIC, RSS Anniston, RS Montgomery. "It is easier to use and I can do more with it."

Another exciting advancement with the laptops is a pro-



Photo by Cpl. Darius King

*Sergeant Eric Pratt, 6 MCD network administrator, set up 100 new laptops to be deployed to NCOICs throughout the district. The machines were set up for dial-up, email and internet capabilities and also features a built-in DVD player.*

gram which has all the documents needed to enlist an applicant.

"It's a good program because the applicants would not have to go back to the office to fill out all the paperwork," said Martin. "They have everything at their fingertips."

Although the program needs some tweaking, its productivity is underway, said Martin.

Added bonuses to the new machines are lower breakdown rates and expanded processing capabilities.

The laptops help with efficiency because the NCOICs can receive things such as waiver approvals through email which cuts down on the time spent in the office waiting for a fax or phone call, said SSgt. Karl McCants, NCOIC, RSS Douglasville, RS Atlanta.

Even with these advantages, Martin stresses that the users should do some preventative maintenance of their own such as keeping the temporary files clear to reduce the amount of space used on the hard drive. Windows 2000, the operating system in the laptops, also has a built in defrag that is easily run and should be done once a month.

## Fax your taxes for free



**Recruiters:** The Tax Center at Parris Island will complete your tax return **free**, if filing any of the following:

1040EZ, 1040A and 1040; as well as state returns. All you have to do is fax all documents ...

If owed a refund, you

will get it within seven to 14 days of filing!

Any other tax service will cost you \$100 to \$200.

If you have poolees shipping to MCRD Parris Island, have them bring in their tax documents as well. Their returns will be done free also.

Tax center personnel have completed a 13 week H&R BLOCK Income Tax course focused on preparing returns, and have been trained by the IRS under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. So far, savings average \$130 in tax preparation fees.

Available to active duty, retired, and family members.

For more information, please call (843) 228-3215.



## From Collingwood, page 4

**C**ollingwood, who is currently a recruiter's assistant in her hometown, Sarasota, Fla said her performance on the show has earned her celebrity status at home. The local media quickly picked up on her story and many in her community now recognize her as the "that person who talks backward," said Collingwood.

According to Collingwood, her celebrity has made things easier for her as a recruiter assistant. "The experience has opened a lot of doors to conversation and has highlighted the many opportunities that exist for women in the

Marines."

Tech. Sgt. Kenneth C. Trimmings, Air Force Concert Band and the Jazz Ensemble, showed off his ability to play two trumpets at the same time. The United States Army Field Band percussion section performed a comic spoof of the "Riverdance" routine using combat boots and a drumming log. Navy Personnelman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Roger Smith, performed various tricks while riding his unicycle.

Members of a Coast Guard band performed N. Rimsky-Korsakov's classical piece, "The Flight of the Bumble-Bee" while running around the stage.

Leno, an honorary Navy Petty

Officer, said the intent of the show was not only to thank the members of the Armed Forces, but also to entertain the troops and television viewers in a unique way.

The show was taped the day prior and broadcast on Thanksgiving to servicemembers serving in bases overseas and aboard Navy ships in the Arabian Sea.

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**"It wasn't just me I was representing with my performance, I was representing the Marine Corps."**

*-Pfc. Amy Collingwood*

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## From Martin, page 6

**S**ince Martin had signed up under a Quality Enlistment Program, his initial contract was for six years. That six years ended after the end of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. This was during a downsizing in the Marine Corps and boat-spaces were at a premium.

"There was one boatspace for trumpet players and there were two of us up for re-enlistment."

With the prospect of re-enlistment looking dim, Martin sought out the Navy recruiter for the possibility of continuing service in the Armed Forces.

He auditioned for the Navy, was accepted and guaranteed duty close to home in Norfolk, Va. But fate intervened in the form of now retired MGySgt. Mark Price, drum major for the 1st Marine Division band.

"I don't know how he did it, but he was able to get a second boatspace for me. I guess that's what drum majors do," recalled the 5-foot-11-inch leatherneck.

After cementing his future with the Marines, Martin spent two more years at Camp Pendleton before being selected to instruct young Marine musicians at the School of Music. He was screened and qualified for the pilot MTA program in 1995; however, his talents were needed more at the School of Music than on recruiting at the time. He again screened for recruiting duty the following year, but again was not released to recruiting. Finally in 2001, Martin was screened again for recruiting and this time was sent to recruiter's school to become an 8411.

"Many recruiters don't realize that I am an 8411," he said. "Right now, I'm a recruiter first."

As in conducting an orchestra, Martin approaches his musical mission with the same methodical plan. Each fiscal year, 6 MCD receives a mission by instrument. Martin then assigns each instrument a value depending on the difficulty to

find.

"Trumpets are easier to find than clarinets, so trumpets are assigned a value of one," he explained.

Once values are assigned, then each recruiting station is given a musician mission based on fair share and points, not instruments.

"It's basically a first-come, first-served basis," Martin said. "Once the district makes mission, then every RS gets full credit for extra instruments."

**T**his system ensures that District makes and exceeds its MEOP mission. Martin often communicates with other MTAs aiding other districts in their musical missions.

"Right now RS Atlanta has already made its shipping mission for musicians," he said. "They are doing it right by working a year in advance. As a district, we are at 76 percent for fiscal year 03."

"He was very instrumental in acquiring new musicians by planning to visit, not only planning, but going above and beyond the audition," said 1stLt. Linda D. Long, executive officer, RS Atlanta, Ga.

"He took time out of his personal schedule to talk to potential applicants, sometimes late into the evenings. He's been here once since June but I've been on the phone with him a number of times and he always follows through whether it be getting bands from Albany (Ga.) or Quantico. He has even gone so far as to help out getting orders for the band to come out. He's truly there to support"

After his successful tour at 6 MCD, Martin hopes to make a lateral move to the enlisted conductor MOS and return to the Fleet Marine Force.

Until then, Martin explains "I'm just another guy who tries to get contracts for the recruiters on the street. That's what it's all about."

# Marines support Titans on road to play-offs

**Sgt. Jason Fischer**

*Marketing and Public Affairs Representative,  
RS Nashville*

The Marine Corps recently did its part to help enhance the game-time experience as well as gain exposure to 70,000 fans at the Coliseum here. The Tennessee Titans hosted the Houston Texans for the first time in a much-anticipated match-up. The game provided an opportunity for the Marines of Recruiting Station Nashville to continue their relationship with the National Football League by lending support like color guards and the Chin-Up Challenge.

According to Ralph Ockenfels, Tennessee Titans marketing director, having the Marines on hand is greatly appreciated.

"Having the Marine Corps involved at our games has been a tremendous help and also been a huge benefit to our fans, players and the head coach," he said. "In addition, I think it is a great way to showcase the

Marines in front of nearly 70,000 fans," added Ockenfels.

The excitement didn't stop with the color guard and booth area. The Marines added to the experience with a two F/A-18 Hornet fly-over. Pilots from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-142 from Naval Air Station Atlanta, Ga. got the crowd on its feet when they buzzed the stadium just after Lee Ann Womack sang the National Anthem.

Major James Linebarger, pilot, VMFA-142, said he believes fly-overs are an added bonus that give fans a thrill they wouldn't normally get to experience.

"I think they (the fans) appreciate the fact they're at a sporting event and get to see something extra," he said. "I think they really enjoy the noise and the excitement. Many people are into the military and enjoy seeing the jets."

Ockenfels agreed, saying the fly-overs are a highlight on the festivities. "We get a lot of tremendous feedback from our fans who enjoy the game day experience at Titans games, said Ockenfels. "In particular, our fans enjoy the fly-overs provided by the Marine Corps."

The pilots, who had maintenance Marines accompany them to the game, said taking part in an event like an NFL football game benefits all those who are involved.

"For community outreach, it was a good deal," Linebarger said. "A lot of people don't realize there's a squadron in Atlanta, so it was great exposure."

After the fly-over, the Marines of VMFA-142 were given a special gift from the Titans, an official game-ball emblazoned with the squadron's name. They also met with Titans owner K.S. "Bud" Adams, Jr. during the game and were presented with commemorative pins.



Photo by Sgt. Jason Fischer

*Tennessee Titans Executive Vice President/Administration Don MacLachlan presents a game ball to Nashville native, Maj. Tracy Farris and crewmembers of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-142 at a recent Titans game against the Houston Texans. The major was one of two F-18 Hornet pilots who conducted a pre-game fly-over at the Coliseum in Nashville before the 17-10 Titan victory.*

But still, the Marines downplayed their performance.

"It was great," said Linebarger. "We just showed up at the stadium and the Titans put on a world class act. It was great getting our hard-working maintenance guys in there, too."

Ockenfels said he believes the Marines' mere presence at the games adds a certain level of security and comfort during an uncertain time in our Nation's history.

"I think in light of everything that is going on in the world right now, having Marine units on hand who have been directly participating in Operation Enduring Freedom really means a great deal to our fans, the soldiers and the team."

The Marines probably played a role in pumping up the fans, whose Titans went on to defeat the Texans, 17-10.

***"I think they (the fans) really enjoy the noise and the excitement. Many people are into the military and enjoy seeing the jets."***

-Maj. James Linebarger  
VMFA-142

# SETTING THE PACE



## DISTRICT BESTS

**ATLANTA**  
RSS: COLUMBUS  
NCOIC: GYSGT HIERS  
RECRUITER: SGT AVERY

**FT LAUDERDALE**  
RSS: HIALEAH  
NCOIC: MSGT GOMEZ  
RECRUITER: SGT LATORRE

**MONTGOMERY**  
RSS: TUPELO  
NCOIC: GYSGT DUMDIE  
RECRUITER: SSGT JENSEN

**NEW ORLEANS**  
RSS: WESTBANK  
NCOIC: MSGT JOHNSON  
RECRUITER: SSGT CAMPBELL

**COLUMBIA**  
RSS: SPARTANBURG  
NCOIC: GYSGT ONEAL  
RECRUITER: SSGT KING

**JACKSONVILLE**  
RSS: PANAMA CITY  
NCOIC: MSGT SCHWALBACK  
RECRUITER: SSGT CHADEE

**NASHVILLE**  
RSS: COOKEVILLE  
NCOIC: GYSGT HOBBS  
RECRUITER: SSGT RUSSELL

**ORLANDO**  
RSS: RSS LAKELAND  
NCOIC: GYSGT MCDANIEL  
RECRUITER: SSGT WINSTON

### Spotlighted Leader in The Fight

**GySgt. Brian Stone**  
**RSS Lake Charles, La.**  
**NCOIC**



GySgt. Brian Stone leads his three recruiters at RSS Lake Charles, LA. He successfully leads one of RS New Orleans' top recruiters, Sgt. Ryan Richard. Stone puts a lot of stock in his pool program.

"I believe that having a solid pool program is key to my RSS's success," said Stone. "I hold voluntary PT sessions every Tuesday and Thursday evenings. At first the turn out was a little weak, but now it's like a pool function twice a week. This has been instrumental in getting referrals from the pool. I can say with confidence that the poolers are more motivated than in the past."

Gunnery Sgt. Stone earned the title "NCOIC of the Quarter" for last quarter.

"He consistently guides his recruiters into the grad market and he has one of the best pools in the RS," said Capt. J.J. Wilson, RS New Orleans Operations Officer. During FY02, Stone shipped 61 and only had 5 MCRD discharges, putting him at 8.2 percent, compared to the 11 percent standard. His pool discharge was 13, putting him at 15.3 percent, compared to the 15 percent standard.

Stone has been on active duty for 17 years and holds a primary MOS of 2141. He said his greatest accomplishment is being a Marine and being in a position to contribute to the community. "Every year I help the local Marine Corps League with their annual Toys for Tots campaign," Stone said. "I organize a 'Toy Ride' every year around Christmas time. This gives me another way to get some publicity and to show the community that the Marine Corps is more than just 'shoot 'em up infantry' and is willing and able to contribute to those in need."

*Compiled by SSgt. Jeff Middleton, M/PA representative, RS New Orleans*

### Dec 4 OR MORE

**ATLANTA**  
GYSGT POPP 4  
SSGT MARTIN 4  
SGT AVERY 4

**COLUMBIA**  
SSGT HASELDON 4  
SGT DAVIS 4  
SGT MILLER 4

**FORT LAUDERDALE**  
SGT LATORRE 5  
SSGT WAGNER 4  
SSGT HARPEL 4  
SGT GOEBEL 4  
SGT REYES 4

**JACKSONVILLE**  
SSGT CHADEE 5  
SGT BLANKENSHIP 4  
SSGT ECKARDT 4

**MONTGOMERY**  
SSGT JENSEN 4

**NASHVILLE**  
SSGT RUSSELL 4

**NEW ORLEANS**  
SSGT HERNANDEZ 6  
SGT JOHNSON 4  
SSGT HAM 4

**ORLANDO**  
SSGT WINSTON 6  
SGT AMERSON 6  
SSGT WILLIAMS 5  
SSGT PRINCE 4





# LEADING THE PACK

## Top District OSOs YTD:

**Orlando**  
 Capt Jackson Reese  
 GySgt James Coleman  
 Ms Elizabeth Murdock

**Nashville**  
 Capt Eric Syverson  
 SSgt Timothy Sullivan  
 Ms Debbie Hollis

**New Orleans**  
 Capt Kurt Strange  
 SSgt Mark McArthur  
 Ms Mary Northern

## Top NCOICs FYTD Based on APR

RANK	RS	RSS	NCOIC	APR
1	FTL	SAN JUAN	GYSGT SANTIAGO*	3.00
2	ATL	COLUMBUS	GYSGT HIERS*	2.75
2	JAX	BRUNSWICK	SSGT MENENDEZ	2.75
4	COL	ROCK HILL	SSGT WALLACE	2.67
5	MON	PRATVILLE	SSGT WILBUR	2.50
5	ORL	BROOKSVILLE	SSGT WILLIAMS	2.50
5	ORL	BRANDON	SSGT VALDEZ	2.50
5	FTL	MIAMI	SSGT URENA	2.50
9	ATL	DULUTH	SSGT SAWYER	2.38
9	COL	SPARTANBURG	GYSGT ONEAL	2.38
11	NAS	COOKEVILLE	GYSGT HOBBS	2.33
11	NAS	KNOXVILLE	GYSGT TUCKER	2.33
11	JAX	ALBANY	SSGT ANDERSON	2.33
11	ORL	RIO PINAR	SSGT CAMACHO	2.33
11	ORL	TEMPLE TERRACE	SSGT VALDEZ	2.33
16	COL	LEXINGTON	GYSGT TRAMMEL*	2.25
17	FTL	HIALEAH	MSGT GOMEZ	2.20
17	NAS	OAK RIDGE	GYSGT ESWAY	2.20
19	ATL	DOUGLASVILLE	SSGT MCCANTS	2.17
19	ATL	MACON	SSGT WATWOOD	2.17
19	FTL	HOLLYWOOD	SSGT JOHNSON	2.17
19	ORL	KISSIMMEE	GYSGT ADAMS	2.17
19	ORL	ORLANDO	MSGT GUILLIN*	2.17
19	COL	ASHEVILLE	GYSGT HILL	2.17
25	NRL	LAFAYETTE	GYSGT WHITEKER*	2.10
26	FTL	MARGATE	SSGT ELLIS	2.00
26	FTL	PERRINE	SSGT LUCAS	2.00
26	JAX	PANAMA CITY	MSGT SCHWALBACK*	2.00
26	JAX	VALDOSTA	GYSGT PAVLOFF	2.00
26	MON	PENSACOLA	SSGT MCKENNEY	2.00
26	NRL	MCCOMB	GYSGT NIXON*	2.00
26	ORL	LEESBURG	SSGT SAYERS	2.00
26	ORL	SANFORD	GYSGT VILLAFANE*	2.00
26	COL	COLUMBIA	GYSGT PONDEXTER	2.00
35	COL	N. CHARLESTON	MSGT JAROSZ*	1.90
35	ATL	KENNESAW	GYSGT TAYLOR	1.90
37	NAS	HUNTSVILLE	GYSGT PENDLETON*	1.89
38	JAX	GAINESVILLE	GYSGT BOUNDS*	1.88
39	NAS	FLORENCE	SSGT BEETS	1.83
39	ATL	GAINESVILLE	SSGT DEAN	1.83
39	FTL	FT PIERCE	GYSGT JOHNSON	1.83
39	JAX	JAX BEACH	GYSGT JONES	1.83
43	FTL	FT MYERS	SSGT SHETROMPF	1.80
43	JAX	JACKSONVILLE	SSGT ANDERSON*	1.80
45	NAS	MEMPHIS	SSGT STOUT*	1.75
45	ORL	LAKELAND	GYSGT MCDANIEL*	1.75
45	ORL	ST PETE	GYSGT BERRY*	1.75
48	MON	BIRMINGHAM	GYSGT LEE*	1.70
48	MON	MOBILE	MSGT LEE*	1.70
50	ATL	STONE MOUNTAIN	GYSGT MORGAN*	1.67
50	JAX	DAYTONA BEACH	GYSGT MOORE	1.67
50	JAX	STATESBORO	SSGT WOODBURY	1.67
50	MON	FT WALTON	SSGT GONZALEZ	1.67
50	NAS	MURFREESBORO	SSGT THOMAS	1.67
50	COL	GREENVILLE	SSGT SMITH	1.67

\* DENOTES 8412

## November Top Recruiters FYTD Minimum six months on production

RS	RECRUITER	NET APR	RANK
FTL	SGT LATORRE	5.00	1
JAX	SSGT CHADEE	5.00	1
ATL	SSGT PUMPHREY	4.00	3
COL	SGT DAVIS	4.00	3
COL	SSGT POWELL	4.00	3
COL	SGT HOLLIDAY	4.00	3
FTL	SSGT WAGNER	4.00	3
FTL	SSGT HARPEL	4.00	3
FTL	SGT GOEBEL	4.00	3
FTL	SGT REYES	4.00	3
NRL	SSGT CAMPBELL	4.00	3
ORL	SSGT WILLIAMS	4.00	3
JAX	SGT BLANKENSHIP	4.00	3
JAX	SSGT ECKHARDT	4.00	3
COL	SGT MILLER	3.67	15
ORL	SSGT WINSTON	3.67	15
NAS	SGT TANNER	3.50	17
ATL	SSGT MARTIN	3.33	18
ATL	GYSGT POPP	3.33	18
COL	SGT DIEHL	3.33	18
ORL	SGT AMERSON	3.33	18
ORL	SSGT MILLER	3.33	18
NAS	SGT BARNARD	3.00	23
ATL	SGT BROWN	3.00	23
ATL	SGT EDGETT	3.00	23
COL	SSGT GINN	3.00	23
COL	SSGT THOMAS	3.00	23
COL	SGT MOSES	3.00	23
COL	SGT SAMPIETRO	3.00	23
FTL	SSGT RIVERA	3.00	23
FTL	SSGT CHANCAY	3.00	23
FTL	SSGT BACA	3.00	23
FTL	SGT FLORES	3.00	23
FTL	SSGT PINDEL	3.00	23
ORL	SGT COWENS	3.00	23
ORL	SSGT VALDEZ	3.00	23
JAX	SGT JUDKINS	3.00	23
JAX	SSGT SCARBROUGH	3.00	23
JAX	SSGT SANTOS	3.00	23
JAX	SGT CUEVAS	3.00	23
ATL	GYSGT PHILLIPS	2.67	41
ATL	SSGT MCKINLEY	2.67	41
ATL	SSGT ADAMS	2.67	41
ATL	SSGT MORRIS	2.67	41
ATL	SGT AVERY	2.67	41
COL	SGT HASELDEN	2.67	41
COL	SSGT KING	2.67	41
ORL	SSGT CINTRON	2.67	41
ORL	SSGT CROSS	2.67	41
ORL	SSGT HERPY	2.67	41
NAS	SSGT HUGHES	2.67	41
NRL	SSGT HERNANDEZ	2.66	41
NRL	SSGT HAM	2.66	41
NRL	SSGT SULLIVAN	2.66	41



Photo by : Cpl. Darius L. King

The drill instructor who appeared on the  
 "We don't promise you a rose garden" recruiting poster,  
 now works at the Parris Island museum.  
 Sergeant "T" poses next to MCRD PI's mascot, Pvt. Mack.